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10/083,707	02/26/2002	Gregory G. Brucker	1001.2256101	1518

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CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC  
1221 NICOLLET AVENUE  
SUITE 800  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420

EXAMINER
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TYSON, MELANIE RUANO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3773

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05 March 2009 has been entered. Claims 1-16, 18, 20-38, 41, and 62 are canceled. New claim 63 has been added.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 17, 19, 39, 40, 42-61, and 63 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 57 is objected to because of the following informalities: typographical error. Replace "an" in line 2 with --a--. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

**Claims 17, 19, 39, 40, 42-56, 61, and 63** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Vardi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,325,826), Marotta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,261,305 B1), and Crocker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,843,116)**. Vardi discloses a system (see entire document) comprising balloon catheters and a bifurcated stent including a stent body (40) and a plurality of movable members (38) engaged to the stent wall, retained substantially within the plane of the stent wall, and expandable radially outward from the stent wall to form a scaffold. Vardi further discloses the movable members and stent body may be balloon expandable or self-expandable, (for example, see column 9, lines 33-35). Vardi fails to disclose the system comprises only a single balloon catheter having a single balloon and a bulge portion for expanding the bifurcated stent.

Marotta discloses a catheter system (see entire document) comprising a catheter having a balloon arrangement. Marotta teaches a bulge portion positioned within the circumferential plane of a body region of the endoprosthesis prior to expansion (for example, see Figure 1) that extends radially through a side opening of the endoprosthesis outside the circumferential plane after expansion and extending less

than the entire circumference of the body region of the balloon (for example, see Figure 4) in order to push a movable member radially outward. The substitution of one known element (a single catheter having a single balloon with a body region and a bulge region) for another (two balloon catheters as shown in Vardi) would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention since the substitution of the balloon catheter in Vardi would have yielded predictable results, namely, a simplified deployment system to deploy the bifurcated stent having movable members. Vardi and Marotta fail to disclose the bulge region has a different pressure and/or inflation characteristics than the elongated body region.

Crocker discloses a system (see entire document) comprising a catheter having a balloon (for example, see Figures 1-3). Crocker teaches a bulge region (30) being located between a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the bulge is positioned at a predetermined circumferential location (for example, see column 1, lines 10-15). Crocker further teaches the expansion characteristics can be achieved by modifying the expansion properties of the balloon itself, including providing zones of differing wall thickness (for example, see column 5, lines 40-45). Thus, it would have been recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art that applying the known technique taught by Crocker to the balloon of Vardi and Marotta would have yielded predictable results and resulted in an improved system, namely, a system that would provide the balloon of Vardi and Marotta a higher expansive energy only where needed, such as along the center where the movable members lie across the bifurcation point, thus minimizing the risk of damaging surrounding healthy tissue.

**Claim 57** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Vardi et al.** Vardi discloses the claimed invention (see rejection above for similar limitations) including an alternate embodiment in which the entire stent may be made of self-expandable material (for example, see column 9, lines 33-35), in which expansion of the stent wall would simultaneously cause the movable members to expand. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the bifurcation stent of self-expanding, or shape memory, material as described in the alternate embodiment, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

**Claims 58-60** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Vardi et al. in view of Marotta et al.** Vardi discloses the claimed invention (see rejection above for similar limitations) except for a bulge region as claimed. Marotta discloses a catheter system (see entire document) comprising a catheter having a balloon arrangement. Marotta teaches a bulge portion positioned within the circumferential plane of a body region of the endoprosthesis prior to expansion (for example, see Figure 1) that extends radially through a side opening of the endoprosthesis outside the circumferential plane after expansion and extending less than the entire circumference of the body region of the balloon (for example, see Figure 4) in order to further push a movable member radially outward (for example, see column 5, lines 14-16 and 25-27). The substitution of one known element (a single catheter having a single balloon with a body region and a bulge region) for another (two balloon

catheters as shown in Vardi) would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention since the substitution of the balloon catheter in Vardi would have yielded predictable results, namely, a simplified deployment system to deploy the bifurcated stent having movable members that would aid in expanding the movable members.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Tyson whose telephone number is (571)272-9062. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7-7 (max flex).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on (571) 272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Art Unit: 3773

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Melanie Tyson /M. T./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3773  
April 20, 2009

/(Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3773